New Mexico Labor Market Review

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Preliminary labor force estimates indicate that, overall, 1988 was a solid year for New Mexico's economy. According to estimates for December, released by Paul M. Garcia, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Labor, the State ended 1988 with an unemployment rate of 6.6 percent, up slightly from November, but considerably improved from the 8.0 percent rate in December 1987. Preliminary estimates indicate that approximately 8,300 fewer New Mexicans were unemployed and 30,100 more were employed at the end of 1988 than in 1987.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates also indicate healthy gains in most industries in 1988. This jobs / place of work-based employment series, developed from a monthly survey of employers across New Mexico, showed job growth of 13,200 from December 1987 to December 1988. The fastest growing industries in 1988 were manufacturing, services, and trade, all with job growth rates of almost four percent. Finance / real estate grew at a two percent rate, local government (mostly public schools) added jobs at a three percent rate, while mining employment was essentially unchanged in 1988.

Unfortunately, a few industries experienced problems during the year, particularly the construction and utilities sectors. Construction jobs were down by 500 or almost two percent in 1988, a continuation of the industry's three-year employment downturn. The number of jobs in transportation, communications, & utilities fell by 1,000 or slightly over 3 percent during the year. The majority of this decline was in utilities, the result of layoffs such as the one by Public Service Company of New Mexico.

Looking below the major industry categories, several sub-sectors posted especially healthy growth during 1988. In manufacturing, both the electronic and transportation equipment sub-sectors saw job gains in the ten percent range, boosted by expanding employers such as Transportation Manufacturing Corporation and Intel. In retail trade, both the food stores and restaurant sub-sectors added jobs at or above six percent, and in services, business and educational services each reported employment gains of almost ten percent.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	703,300	709,800	681,500	-6,500	+21,800
Employment	657,000	663,900	626,900	-6,900	+30,100
Unemployment	46,300	45,900	54,600	+ 400	-8,300
Rate	6.6%	6.5%	8.0%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM DEC 1988	REVISED NOV 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1988	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	549,600	553,700	536,400	-4,100	13,200
MINING	15,700	15,400	15,600	300	100
Metal Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,100	4,000	4,100	100	0
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,400	9,200	9,400	200	0
CONSTRUCTION	29,500	30,500	30,000	-1,000	-500
MANUFACTURING	40,900	41,100	39,400	-200	1,500
DURABLE GOODS	28,100	28,100	26,700	0	1,400
Lumber & Wood Products	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Machinery(except electric)	2,700	2,600	2,500	100	200
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,800	5,800	5,200	0	600
Transportation Equipment	5,600	5,600	5,200	0	400
Other Durable Goods	11,400	11,500	11,200	-100	200
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,800	13,000	12,700	-200	100
Food & Kindred Products	3,800	3,900	3,900	-100	-100
Textile & Apparel	2,600	2,700	2,600	-100	0
Other Nondurable Goods	6,400	6,400	6,200	0	200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,500	28,700	29,500	-200	-1,000
TRANSPORTATION	13,400	13,300	13,500	100	-100
Railroad Transportation	1,900	2,000	2,100	-100	-200
Trucking & Warehousing	6,500	6,300	6,500	200	0
Other Transportation	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,100	15,400	16,000	-300	-900
Communication	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,200	8,500	9,100	-300	-900
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	137,400	135,800	132,200	1,600	5,200
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,100	23,000	23,100	100	0
Durable Goods	13,500	13,400	13,400	100	100
Nondurable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,700	0	-100
RETAIL TRADE	114,300	112,800	109,100	1,500	5,200
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
General Merchandise Stores	13,800	13,500	14,000	300	-200
Food Stores	15,800	15,600	14,900	200	900
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,400	13,500	13,200	-100	200
Apparel & Accessories	6,500	5,900	6,300	600	200
Furniture & Furnishing	4,600	4,500	4,400	100	200
Eating & Drinking Places	43,000	43,100	39,800	-100	3,200
Miscellaneous Retail	12,700	12,200	12,100	500	600
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,900	27,800	27,200	100	700
Banking	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
Insurance Carriers	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,100	3,000	2,900	100	200
Real Estate	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
SERVICES	127,400	126,100	122,600	1,300	4,800
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11,100	11,200	11,200	-100	-100
Personal Services	6,200	6,100	5,800	100	400
Business Services	31,600	31,200	29,600	400	2,000
Health Services	31,600	31,500	30,700	100	900
Legal Services	4,500	4,500	4,300	0	200
Educational Services	6,100	6,100	5,400	0	700
Social Services	6,800	6,800	6,500	0	300
Membership Organizations	5,800	5,800	6,300	0	-500
Other Services	23,700	22,900	22,800	800	900
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	142,300	148,300	139,900	-6,000	2,400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,400	29,500	29,600	-100	-200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	112,900	118,800	110,300	-5,900	2,600
State Government 2/	49,500	50,400	49,300	-900	200
Local Government	63,400	68,400	61,000	-5,000	2,400

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

Albuquerque's unemployment rate improved slightly in December according to preliminary estimates. Bernalillo County's jobless rate was 5.0 percent in December, down from 5.1 percent in November and 6.1 percent one year ago. The nation's unemployment rate in December was also 5.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The number of job seekers in Albuquerque fell by 400 to a level of 13,500 in December, while employment grew by 700 to an all-time high of 258,400.

According to preliminary estimates, total nonfarm wage and salary employment grew by 200 jobs in December, as a large increase in trade was offset by seasonal declines in both government and construction. Albuquerque's retailers, overall, hired significantly more workers for the holiday season in 1988 than in 1987. Approximately 1,000 additional jobs were filled in trade as employers such as general merchandise and apparel stores and restaurants added workers for the holiday season. By comparison, in 1987 trade grew by 500 jobs in December. Looking at the normal two month build-up for the holidays, November and December, trade added 1,800 jobs in 1988, compared with a 1,400 increase in 1987.

Approximately 200 jobs were lost in construction during December; however, this was also better than the usual winter time slowdown at this time of year. Although not showing long term growth, employment in construction has at least leveled out after a three-year fall. As of December, construction employment in Albuquerque is up just slightly (+100) from one year ago. However, the industry remains approximately 2,100 jobs below its year-end 1985 level.

Looking back over 1988, one would have to say that, overall, it was a positive year for the Albuquerque and New Mexico labor force. Unemployment declined significantly during the year, and employment grew at a steady pace in most sectors.

	Prel.	Revised	Change From		
	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	271,900	271,600	260,400	+ 300	+11,500
Employment	258,400	257,700	244,600	+ 700	+13,800
Unemployment	13,500	13,900	15,800	- 400	-2,300
Rate	5.0%	5.1%	6.1%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM DEC 1988	REVISED NOV 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1988	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	240,000	239,800	234,700	200	5,300
MINING	100	100	100	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	15,400	15,600	15,300	-200	100
MANUFACTURING	20,400	20,400	20,200	0	200
Durable Goods	14,800	14,800	14,600	0	200
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,400	12,300	12,600	100	-200
Transportation	6,400	6,300	6,200	100	200
Communication	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,200	2,200	2,500	0	-300
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	64,500	63,500	61,800	1,000	2,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,300	14,300	14,300	0	0
Durable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,500	0	100
Nondurable Goods	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	-100
RETAIL TRADE	50,200	49,200	47,500	1,000	2,700
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,700	5,700	200	200
Food Stores	5,500	5,500	5,100	0	400
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,800	4,900	4,600	-100	200
Eating & Drinking Places	20,100	19,700	18,400	400	1,700
Other Retail Trade	13,900	13,400	13,700	500	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,200	15,100	15,100	100	100
Banking	3,400	3,400	3,400	0	0
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,400	4,300	4,300	100	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,400	7,400	7,400	0	0
SERVICES	65,200	64,800	63,900	400	1,300
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,700	3,800	3,800	-100	-100
Personal Services	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
Business Services	21,700	21,300	21,100	400	600
Health Services	14,600	14,600	14,500	0	100
Social Services	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Other Services	17,900	17,800	17,200	100	700
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	46,800	48,000	45,700	-1,200	1,100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,100	13,100	13,000	0	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	33,700	34,900	32,700	-1,200	1,000
State Government	12,300	13,000	12,200	-700	100
Local Government	21,400	21,900	20,500	-500	900

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM DEC 1988	REVISED NOV 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1988	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	42,550	42,700	41,100	-150	1,450
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,100	2,200	2,100	-100	0
MANUFACTURING	3,800	4,000	4,100	-200	-300
Durable Goods	1,500	1,500	1,700	0	-200
Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,500	2,400	-200	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,250	1,350	0	-100
Transportation	450	450	550	0	-100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	800	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	9,500	9,250	8,800	250	700
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,000	950	900	50	100
RETAIL TRADE	8,500	8,300	7,900	200	600
General Merchandise Stores	1,150	1,050	1,000	100	150
Food Stores	1,150	1,150	1,050	0	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,150	1,150	1,100	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	3,200	3,200	3,000	0	200
Other Retail Trade	1,850	1,750	1,750	100	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,800	1,750	1,650	50	150
SERVICES	7,150	7,000	6,450	150	700
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	700	700	700	0	0
Business Services	1,600	1,500	1,400	100	200
Health Services	1,850	1,900	1,750	-50	100
Social Services	300	300	300	0	0
Other Services	2,700	2,600	2,300	100	400
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,900	17,200	16,600	-300	300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,300	4,300	4,300	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,600	12,900	12,300	-300	300
State Government	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Local Government	5,600	5,900	5,400	-300	200

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM DEC 1988	REVISED NOV 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	DEC CHANGE FROM NOV 1988	DEC CHANGE FROM DEC 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	55,650	56,200	54,750	-550	900
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,400	2,500	2,500	-100	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Durable Goods	1,200	1,200	1,100	0	100
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,200	1,200	50	50
Transportation	500	450	450	50	50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	750	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11,450	11,350	11,000	100	450
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	800	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	10,600	10,500	10,200	100	400
General Merchandise Stores	1,050	1,000	1,150	50	-100
Food Stores	1,300	1,250	1,300	50	0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	850	850	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	4,700	4,800	4,300	-100	400
Other Retail Trade	2,700	2,600	2,600	100	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	-100
SERVICES	14,500	14,500	14,300	0	200
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,750	1,850	1,700	-100	50
Business Services	3,400	3,500	3,300	-100	100
Health Services	3,400	3,300	3,300	100	100
Social Services	650	650	600	0	50
Other Services	5,300	5,200	5,400	100	-100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,300	22,900	22,000	-600	300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,800	21,400	20,500	-600	300
State Government 3/	16,500	16,500	16,400	0	100
Local Government	4,300	4,900	4,100	-600	200

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	DEC 1988	NOV 1988	DEC 1987	DEC 1988	NOV 1988	DEC 1987	DEC 1988	NOV 1988	DEC 1987
MINING	$535.30	$501.82	$535.95	43.1	41.2	44.7	12.42	12.18	11.99
CONSTRUCTION	$465.28	$452.57	$412.38	40.6	40.3	39.2	11.46	11.23	10.52
MANUFACTURING	$381.55	$372.37	$367.79	42.3	41.1	41.7	9.02	9.06	8.82
Durable Goods	$389.73	$373.43	$386.01	43.4	41.4	42.7	8.98	9.02	9.04
Nondurable Goods	$305.33	$316.80	$320.62	37.1	38.4	39.1	8.23	8.25	8.20
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$578.14	$533.71	$586.38	42.2	38.9	43.5	13.70	13.72	13.48
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$216.45	$206.54	$222.91	32.5	31.2	32.4	6.66	6.62	6.88
Wholesale Trade	$354.56	$340.49	$382.97	40.2	39.5	39.4	8.82	8.62	9.72
Retail Trade	$189.71	$181.15	$191.58	31.1	29.6	31.0	6.10	6.12	6.18
BANKING	$247.65	$245.05	$232.33	38.1	37.7	37.9	6.50	6.50	6.13
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	DEC 1988	NOV 1988	DEC 1987	DEC 1988	NOV 1988	DEC 1987	DEC 1988	NOV 1988	DEC 1987
MANUFACTURING	$386.51	$380.09	$392.12	40.6	39.8	42.3	9.52	9.55	9.27
Durable Goods	$410.75	$404.97	$417.41	41.7	40.7	43.3	9.85	9.95	9.64
Nondurable Goods	$310.90	$306.53	$317.96	37.1	37.2	39.4	8.38	8.24	8.07

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987	Percent Change Nov.'88-Dec.'88	Percent Change Dec.'87-Dec.'88
CPI-U	120.5	120.3	115.4	+0.2%	+4.4%
CPI-W	119.2	119.0	114.2	+0.2%	+4.4%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area Economic Activity

Statewide: The National Commission on Military Base Realignment and Closure has released its recommendations, and New Mexico is expected to actually benefit, overall, from the changes at its military bases. The commission called for closing 86 installations across the country, and only one was in New Mexico - Fort Wingate, located near Gallup. Approximately 90 persons are employed at Fort Wingate. The good news is that several other bases in New Mexico are expected to gain employment from the base consolidations. Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque will gain approximately 350 military personnel and 140 civilian jobs, and Cannon AFB will gain by up to 1,100 military personnel and 60 civilian jobs through the reorganization. New Mexico's other military installations, Holloman AFB and White Sands Missile Range, both near Alamogordo, are expected to be unaffected by the commission's realignment.

Albuquerque Area: Bradbury and Stamm Construction Company was awarded a $26 million contract to build the Albuquerque Convention Center expansion's main phase. American ShiZuki Corporation (ASC), part of a major Japanese electronics engineering and research company, announced plans to build a $5 million plant in Rio Rancho. The manufacturer of electronic devices known as capacitors is expected to employ up to 300 workers locally. Construction on the new plant is scheduled to get underway within two years according to James Covell, Executive Vice President of Albuquerque Economic Development Inc.--the organization responsible for recruiting ASC to the Albuquerque area. Goldwaters Department store in Coronado Center will become a May D&F chain store effective February 26, 1989. May Department Stores Company, owner of both Goldwaters and May D&F, will discontinue the Goldwaters name in all markets. Goldwaters has about 300 full and part-time employees in Albuquerque. Foley's department store, also owned by May Company, closed its doors on January 21. Shooters, a restaurant and night club in the Uptown area, went out of business. Dave Garduno, owner of Garduno's restaurant, plans to open a restaurant called "Yester-Dave's Grill" at 10601 Montgomery Boulevard on January 30. "A Touch of the Southwest", owned by Julian and Barbara Smith, has opened a permanent shop in the Alameda West Shopping Center. The business specializes in Southwestern furniture, Indian jewelry, kachinas, pottery, and arts and crafts of the Southwest. Developers of a large-scale retail shopping complex intend to break ground next month clearing the way for Rio Rancho's first department store, K mart. Developer Jim Peterson stated that eventually the center would be nearly twice the size of any existing Rio Rancho shopping center. The first phase of the center is scheduled to open for business this fall and will include an unnamed national chain store in addition to K mart. The second phase is expected to be built in 1990 and will include a supermarket and several smaller stores. A New Jersey company, PrinTron Inc., which is developing a new method for manufacturing electronic circuit boards, is moving to Albuquerque. The site for the new manufacturing plant is in Richfield Park, one block north of Alameda Boulevard near Coronado Airport. Groundbreaking at the site took place January 19. Hisaw and Associates will serve as general contractor for the project. PrinTron will initially employ about 15 to 18 people, mostly technicians and scientists involved in research and development work. It will be a year or two before manufacturing operations begin at the Albuquerque plant and hiring at that time could increase something on the order of 50 workers. One of the oldest construction firms in Albuquerque, Lembke Construction Company Inc., will be closing after struggling unsuccessfully to survive the sluggish construction industry and competitive market. Lembke has but six remaining employees as the pioneer general contracting firm prepares to close. The company built Johnson Gymnasium, Woodward and Popejoy halls at UNM, and the original Albuquerque Convention Center. The Downs of Albuquerque tipped off the horse racing season January 25th.

Carlsbad / Artesia Area: Renovation work is continuing on the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia. The center is expected to see its first trainees in mid-1989. The Veterans Administration plans to open an outpatient clinic in Artesia this spring, staffing a full-time physician and a full-time nurse. Celtech Corporation, a manufacturer of jet engine testing equipment, will begin relocating from Celeste, Texas to Carlsbad. Celtech Corporation obtained a $27 million contract with the U.S. Air Force to manufacture 133 jet engine mobile test facilities. The company plans to begin hiring electronics

assemblers in about six months and is expecting to employ about 30 people initially with 15 of them being local hires. Seven Rivers Inc. plans to reopen as a result of the purchase of the feedlot, feedmill and commodity division by the newly formed Seven Rivers Cattle and Commodities Inc. The reopening will maintain employment for 20 workers at Seven Rivers directly involved with the feedlot and commodities division, as well as an estimated 160 indirect jobs in the area which are affected by the feedlot operation. Officials expect an additional 20 people will be hired over the next six months as the operation expands its market in New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas. A $1.6 billion pipeline project, linking Alaska's oil-rich North Slope with Midland Texas, is expected to pass through the very southern part of New Mexico. The pipeline project is expected to bring 200 to 300 jobs to the El Paso and southern New Mexico area. The primary purpose of the project is to shortcut transportation of Alaska's North Slope crude oil to a 99-acre terminal in Midland. Construction for the pipeline will begin in El Paso in March. Mike Owens, Vice President with the Pacific Texas Pipeline Co., hopes to hire 90 percent of the workers from the El Paso and southern New Mexico region. The project will employ electricians, welders, equipment operators, general laborers, and truck drivers.

Clovis / Portales Area: Gold Star Dairies, a subsidiary of Affiliated Milk Producers of Little Rock, Ark., is completing final preparations to begin milk production at its Clovis facility by the middle of February. The plant is expected to employ up to 35 workers when it begins operations. Gator Transportation Inc., of Little Rock, Arkansas, opened a trucking operation in Clovis. The firm expects to employ 20 people initially and plans to increase that number to 50 by the end of 1989. The employees will include truck drivers, maintenance, and administrative personnel.

Espanola / Chama Area: Sunwest Bank will close Dulce's only bank in March. The Chama and Dulce branches will be consolidated in Chama. The first phase of the new high school in Pojoaque is complete, and the second phase of construction will begin in April. Included in the first phase are 16 classrooms. The second phase will include a gymnasium and cafeteria. The third and fourth phases will include construction of a library, science classroom, and other general education classrooms. The renovated Parkview Fish Hatchery may be operational as early as February. The hatchery normally maintains the state's rainbow trout brood stock because of its excellent water quality and temperature.

Grants / Gallup Area: The Grants City Council has passed a resolution to issue industrial revenue bonds to finance the 200-bed, $9 million women's correctional facility now under construction on a 40-acre site. The facility, which will be run by Corrections Corp. of America, is expected to be in operation by this April. The new prison will create up to 80 new jobs for the Grants area, according to Corrections Corp. officials. Craig Food Industries, also known as TacoTime, has announced plans to expand its franchise system to Gallup. The chain has been franchising its system since 1961 with more than 280 units and operations in 18 states, Canada, England, and Japan. The opening date and location of the new Gallup restaurant have not yet been announced. Giant Refining Company, located 17 miles east of Gallup, completed construction of a $2.8 million saturate gas plant. The gas plant was fully operational at the end of December. The Gallup refinery is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Giant Industries Inc. The City of Gallup has been awarded a $340,000 airport improvement grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. The grant money will be used to reconstruct a runway and apron at the Gallup Municipal Airport. McKinley County Commissioners signed a contract for initial plans on a $7 million judicial complex project. Ray Mitcham, owner of the contracted Roswell firm of Ray Mitcham Associates, said he expects to complete design and site recommendation work on the project by May 1.

Hobbs Area: Furr's Supermarket in Hobbs, which employed approximately 50 workers, closed its doors December 31. A new supermarket is being built by Furr's at the site and on adjoining property. Official target date for opening the new supermarket is September 1989. Approximately 25 of the 50 Furr's employees were able to transfer to the Furr's owned Box Warehouse store in Hobbs.

Las Cruces Area: The final stages of the red chile harvest and the pecan harvest continue this month. SYE International & Flying J. Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah, are expected to start construction of a $10 million truck stop on Interstate 10. The new truck stop will be located off Interstate 10

near Anthony, Texas. It will include a convenience store, restaurant, fast food restaurant, 120-room hotel, truckers' lounge, and a filling station for trucks, cars, and recreational vehicles. September, 1989 is the estimated completion date for of the truck stop. Approximately 200 people are expected to be employed, many of them New Mexicans. El Paso Electric is considering relocating its B.P. John Furniture Company to Las Cruces' West Mesa Industrial Park. The furniture plant would be the second largest private employer in Dona Ana County bringing with it up to 650 jobs. Larry Allen, owner of Allen Theatres, is planning to build four new movie theaters in Las Cruces by June 1.

Los Lunas / Belen Area: Avonite Corporation, which manufactures a product similar in appearance to granite, marble, or onyx, began production at its new plant this month. Approximately 20 Avonite administrative and operations personnel were transferred to the Belen area to work in the new plant, and about ten area residents were hired. As many as 200 local workers could be hired by Avonite within the next three to four years. Solo Cup Company, an internationally known manufacturer of paper cups and plastic utensils, has decided to locate a plant in Belen. The factory will initially bring 250 jobs to the area, and be located at the Rio Grande Industrial Park, south of Rio Communities. Casey Luna Ford-Mercury officially opened a dealership branch this month in Los Lunas at the Valencia Y Shopping Center.

Raton Area: Kaiser Coal idled 110 workers on December 30, 1988. This, in effect, closes the strip mining operation at York Canyon. Agreement was reached for Kaiser Coal to sell its New Mexico coal mining operations and properties to the Pittsburg & Midway Mining Company (P&M). P&M's plans for the New Mexico mines are unclear.

Roswell / Ruidoso Area: Fibertech Inc., a manufacturer of molded fiberglass products and a supplier to Transportation Manufacturing Corp's rapid transit system buses, is expected to open in a newly constructed building in early spring. Construction is under way at the Roswell Industrial Air Center for the new manufacturing plant. Fibertech also does engineering and design work, produces tools and molds, and manufacturers fiberglass bus components for several other bus companies. Fibertech moved last March from Killeen, Texas to Roswell and has been operating out of several leased facilities. The firm has 50 employees now and could double that number by next summer after they settle into the new plant. The Jaynes Group, which operates 12 Quality Plus grocery stores in Texas and New Mexico, has announced closure of the Roswell store. The supermarket's last day of operation was January 21. In 1987, the Jaynes Group, headquartered in El Paso, agreed to purchase 12 Furr's stores after the Federal Trade Commission ruled that Furr's divest certain stores before purchasing Safeway's El Paso Division. Quality Plus has employed a staff averaging about 35 people during its nearly one year of operation in Roswell. Juma Farms, Ltd., headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, is expanding its operations with a manufacturing plant in Ruidoso which will specialize in the manufacturing of wooden letters, numbers, and other wooden parts. The manufacturing operation will eventually employ from eight to ten people.

Santa Fe Area: A partnership of private developers and Picuris Pueblo intends to build an all-suites hotel on Paseo de Peralta. The hotel is planned on property between Cerrillos Road and Guadalupe Street which now includes the Covered Wagon Trailer Park. The new hotel, which will be in the pueblo style, will be three stories high and create about 48 full-time and 20 part-time jobs.

Taos Area: The Taos Ski Valley increased the number of employees by approximately 140 workers during the holidays, bringing the total employment to 453. Layoffs at the ski area are not being anticipated until late February.

Truth or Consequences Area: Construction of the Cuchillo-Negro Flood Control Project Dam is expected to start in May, 1989. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is in charge of the project, will publish bids for the construction of the dam in March. The dam, which is to provide flood protection to the City of T-or-C and village of Williamsburg, will take several years to build.

NEW PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

"New Mexico Workforce 2000," the state's newest publication relating to future demographics and workforce trends, has just been released by the New Mexico Department of Labor. The report provides a glimpse into the 21st century, detailing expected changes in the state's population, labor force composition, industry and occupational employment, and educational levels.

The number of people living in New Mexico is expected to increase by 28 percent, as over 400,000 residents are added to the state's population. This projected growth rate, while slower than that of the previous 15-year period, is significantly higher than the projected national increase of 15 percent. The 75 and over age group will experience the largest increase through the year 2000, reflecting the aging of the state's population. Minorities are expected to represent a larger proportion of the population, due to both immigration and higher birth rates.

New Mexico's labor force is projected to increase by nearly 200,000 workers, or 31 percent, through the end of the century. The state's labor force will become older, with a smaller proportion of young workers. Minorities and immigrants will comprise a greater percentage of new labor force entrants through the year 2000. Women will make up a larger share of the state's workforce than ever before, accounting for 58 percent of the total labor force increase.

Approximately 148,000 new jobs are projected to be added to the state's economy by the year 2000, an increase of 28 percent. Following the national trend, New Mexico will shift away from the goods-producing sector, as service-producing jobs claim an increasingly higher percentage of employment.

Technology will have a significant impact on New Mexico's occupational employment through the year 2000. The ability to operate technologically advanced equipment and machinery will be required for many jobs. By raising productivity, technological improvements will reduce the need for some occupational skills, including stenographers, telephone operators, and communication equipment installers. At the same time, the demand for "high-tech" occupations, such as engineers and computer scientists, will increase. A considerable number of jobs not requiring technological skills will continue to exist, particularly in the service industry.

Changes in New Mexico's demographic and labor force composition will strongly influence industrial and occupational patterns. The aging of the state's population will spur the demand for health care and social service occupations, while the growth of the school-age population will result in an increased demand for educational staff. The growing number of women in the workforce is expected to boost demand for day care facilities as well as for "luxury" and convenience items.

Nationally, educational requirements are expected to rise through the year 2000 as the number of jobs in technology-related sectors increases. In particular, higher levels in language, math, and reasoning skills will be required. Although a substantial number of low-skilled occupations will continue to exist in New Mexico, technological advances will cause educational requirements to rise, particularly for high-paying jobs.

Copies of "New Mexico Workforce 2000" are available at no charge by contacting:

New Mexico Department of Labor
Economic Research and Analysis Bureau
P.O. Box 1928 - Albuquerque, NM 87103
Tele. (505) 841-8645

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1988				REVISED NOVEMBER 1988				REVISED DECEMBER 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	703,285	656,967	46,318	6.6%	709,749	663,883	45,866	6.5%	681,526	626,916	54,610	8.0%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	271,946	258,433	13,513	5.0%	271,533	257,681	13,852	5.1%	260,407	244,611	15,796	6.1%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	58,712	55,167	3,545	6.0%	60,145	56,697	3,448	5.7%	55,387	51,766	3,621	6.5%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	67,263	64,330	2,933	4.4%	68,732	65,817	2,915	4.2%	65,023	61,489	3,534	5.4%
Catron	1,132	1,032	100	8.8%	1,215	1,094	121	10.0%	1,144	1,008	136	11.9%
Chaves	24,734	23,471	1,263	5.1%	25,033	23,672	1,361	5.4%	22,808	21,300	1,508	6.6%
Cibola	9,217	8,358	859	9.3%	9,435	8,576	859	9.1%	9,158	8,043	1,115	12.2%
Colfax	5,918	5,172	746	12.6%	6,183	5,390	793	12.8%	7,328	6,620	708	9.7%
Curry	16,954	15,811	1,143	6.7%	16,973	15,890	1,083	6.4%	16,983	15,603	1,380	8.1%
De Baca	882	801	81	9.2%	941	843	98	10.4%	926	823	103	11.1%
Eddy	21,106	19,436	1,670	7.9%	21,117	19,513	1,604	7.6%	20,250	18,121	2,129	10.5%
Grant	10,520	9,680	840	8.0%	10,485	9,657	828	7.9%	10,494	9,570	924	8.8%
Guadalupe	1,621	1,364	257	15.9%	1,659	1,421	238	14.3%	1,628	1,336	292	17.9%
Harding	416	360	56	13.5%	428	378	50	11.7%	441	385	56	12.7%
Hidalgo	2,505	2,392	113	4.5%	2,566	2,418	148	5.8%	2,546	2,383	163	6.4%
Lea	23,130	21,579	1,551	6.7%	23,409	21,751	1,658	7.1%	22,809	21,030	1,779	7.8%
Lincoln	6,640	6,188	452	6.8%	6,815	6,420	395	5.8%	6,433	5,900	533	8.3%
Luna	5,981	5,325	656	11.0%	6,111	5,379	732	12.0%	5,890	5,080	810	13.8%
McKinley	17,546	15,682	1,864	10.6%	17,574	15,891	1,683	9.6%	17,548	15,289	2,259	12.9%
Mora	1,258	903	355	28.2%	1,362	973	389	28.6%	1,370	930	440	32.1%
Otero	18,979	17,554	1,425	7.5%	19,193	17,853	1,340	7.0%	18,231	16,744	1,487	8.2%
Quay	4,715	4,410	305	6.5%	4,768	4,458	310	6.5%	4,643	4,221	422	9.1%
Rio Arriba	13,595	11,628	1,967	14.5%	13,867	12,081	1,786	12.9%	13,636	11,219	2,417	17.7%
Roosevelt	7,818	7,484	334	4.3%	7,949	7,606	343	4.3%	7,797	7,390	407	5.2%
Sandoval	28,440	26,609	1,831	6.4%	29,029	27,350	1,679	5.8%	24,421	22,471	1,950	8.0%
San Juan	32,392	29,106	3,286	10.1%	32,353	29,515	2,838	8.8%	33,697	29,585	4,112	12.2%
San Miguel	9,686	8,704	982	10.1%	9,805	8,837	968	9.9%	9,898	8,653	1,245	12.6%
Sierra	2,613	2,486	127	4.9%	2,753	2,600	153	5.6%	2,600	2,405	195	7.5%
Socorro	5,983	5,550	433	7.2%	6,184	5,760	424	6.9%	6,217	5,596	621	10.0%
Taos	10,105	8,203	1,902	18.8%	9,805	7,806	1,999	20.4%	10,869	8,384	2,485	22.9%
Torrance	3,566	3,232	334	9.4%	3,645	3,333	312	8.6%	3,560	3,165	395	11.1%
Union	1,966	1,861	105	5.3%	2,042	1,921	121	5.9%	2,111	1,953	158	7.5%
Valencia	15,946	14,656	1,290	8.1%	16,640	15,302	1,338	8.0%	15,273	13,843	1,430	9.4%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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